

May 24, 2023

To: Honorable Ms. Katherine Jordan, 2nd District Council Representative and Chair of Government Operations

From: Mr. Antoine Banks (Secretary), Ms. Rachael Deane (Vice Chair), Dr. Thad Williamson (Chair), on behalf of the 2022 City Charter Review Commission

Re: May 23, 2023 – Minutes of the Public Hearing of the City Charter Review Commission (DRAFT)

Please review the attached meeting minutes that were taken at the tenth meeting of the 2022 City Charter Review Commission in Richmond, VA.



**CITY OF RICHMOND
2022 CHARTER REVIEW COMMISSION
May 2023**

Meeting Date: Tuesday, May 23, 2023

Meeting Location: Richmond Police Academy, Auditorium, 1202 W. Graham Street, Richmond, VA

Presiding: Thad Williamson, Chair

Approval: **FINAL – ADOPTED – June 8, 2023**

Recorded by: Antoine A. Banks, Secretary

Attest: Joyce Davis, Council Policy Analyst

3 **OPENING:**

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5 The tenth meeting of the 2022 City Charter Review Commission was called to order at 6:03 p.m. on Tuesday, May 23,
6 2023 by Commission Chairman **Williamson** in the auditorium of the Richmond Police Academy.

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8 **COMMISSIONERS IN ATTENDANCE:**

9 Thad Williamson, *Chair (Virtually)*

10 Rachel Deane, *Vice Chair*

11 Antoine Banks, *Secretary*

12 William "Bill" Echelberger, *Historian*

13 Kyle Elliott

14 John P. Girardi

15 Steve Koski

16 Daisy Weaver

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18 **STAFF AND COMMUNITY IN ATTENDANCE (REPRESENTATION):**

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20 Joyce Davis, Council Policy Analyst (*Council*)

21 LaTasha Holmes, City Council Chief of Staff (*Council*)

22 Tabrica Rentz, Deputy City Attorney (*Administration*)

23 Tori Cotman, Assistant City Attorney (*Administration*)

24 *Online Attendance Count: 6*

25 *Live Audience in Attendance: 15*

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27 **ADOPTION OF APRIL COMMISSION MINUTES:**

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29 The chair called upon members to review the minutes of the ninth Charter Review Commission meetings held on May
30 18, 2023.

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32 **MOTION 10.1:**

33 Commissioner **Banks** moved to adopt the May 18, 2023 CRC minutes.

34 **Notes on the Motion:**

35 **Second the Motion:** Motion was properly seconded by Commissioner **Echelberger**.

36 **Resolution:** Motion carried. Minutes were approved unanimously, as drafted.

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38 **OVERVIEW OF THE 2022 CHARTER REVIEW COMMISSION:**

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40 Chairman **Williamson** gave an overview of history of the charter, the purpose of the charter review commission and
41 the goals of the 2022 Charter Review Commission.

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43 **REVIEW OF THE COMMISSION PROCESS:**

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45 The chair called upon Commission Vice Chair **Deane** to provide a summary of the commission process to those in
46 attendance at the public hearing.

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49 **SUMMARY OF GOVERNANCE SUB-COMMITTEE PRILIMINARY RECOMMENDATIONS:**

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2 The vice chair called upon Commissioner **Elliott** to present the draft of the preliminary recommendation written by
3 the Governance Sub-Committee. Commissioner **Elliott** gave a detailed presentation of the committee's
4 recommendation on the Strong Mayor form of government.

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6 **SUMMARY OF ELECTORAL SUB-COMMITTEE PRILIMINARY RECOMMENDATIONS:**

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8 The vice chair called upon Commissioner **Gunn** to present the draft of the preliminary recommendation written by the
9 Electoral Sub-Committee. Commissioner **Gunn** gave a detailed presentation of the committee's recommendation on
10 the Council-Manager form of government.

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12 **PUBLIC HEARING:**

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14 The chair called upon Commission Secretary **Banks** to provide an overview of the public hearing process. Secretary
15 **Banks** directed all audience members interested in offering testimony to share their full name, council district, stay on
16 topic within the 3-minute time allotted and avoid ad hominem attacks.

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18 **PUBLIC COMMENTS 10.1:**

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1. **Simon Kelly, 1st District:** #1:Stated that question #14 should be re-written to include those who have moved to the City after 1994. #2:Service delivery and response time must be improved upon and the council should be given more power to hire/fire department heads where there's no improvement with service delivery.
 2. **Martin Waybright of Richmond City:** Provided testimony in favor of increasing City Council power.
 3. **Emily Cavanagh, 3rd District:** #1:Is it safe to assume that the school board structure matches the city council proposed structure when and if there's a transition as one of the recommendations suggest. #2:Support immediate run-off election and referenced the election to fill Congressman McEachern election after his passing as an example of why it is necessary.
 4. Kenneth Williams, resident of Richmond. Provided comments unrelated to the matter being discussed.
 5. **Wilbert Talley, 4th District:** #1:Asked for clarification on the vision for City. In our investigation---who is responsible for developing the vision for the City? Mayor or City Council? How do we resolve that question? 2:Who do we recommend be in charge of developing the vision for the City?
 - a. Chairman Williamson shared that it is the "core of our mission" to determine that truth.
 6. **Jane Talley, 4th District:** Questioned "why we are unhappy?" assuming there is a level of unhappiness with the current government set, why?
 - a. Commissioner Elliott shared comments on the purpose our of working on the commission. He shared that it wasn't because any of us are unhappy instead we are all appointed only to fulfil the mission of the 2022 CRC.
 7. **Lisa Vedermkova Khanna, 3rd District:** Reiterated and supported Mr. Wilbert Talley's statement.

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No other member from the live or virtual audience testified before the Commission.

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UPCOMING COMMISSION MEETING DATES:

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The chair announced the upcoming meetings of the commission to be held on **Thursday, June 8th at 5pm, Thursday, June 15th – Southside, June 22nd - West End, June 28th (vote on proposal), July 13th – Draft Report, July 20th – Final CRC meeting, July 24th – Presentation to the Richmond City Council at 4pm Meeting. All meeting times to be announced.** Subcommittees will schedule meetings and provide notice to the public.

ADJOURNMENT:

There being no further discussion or business that came before the commission at the time, A motion was made and seconded and unanimously adopted that the meeting be adjourned at 7:25 pm. Motion carried.